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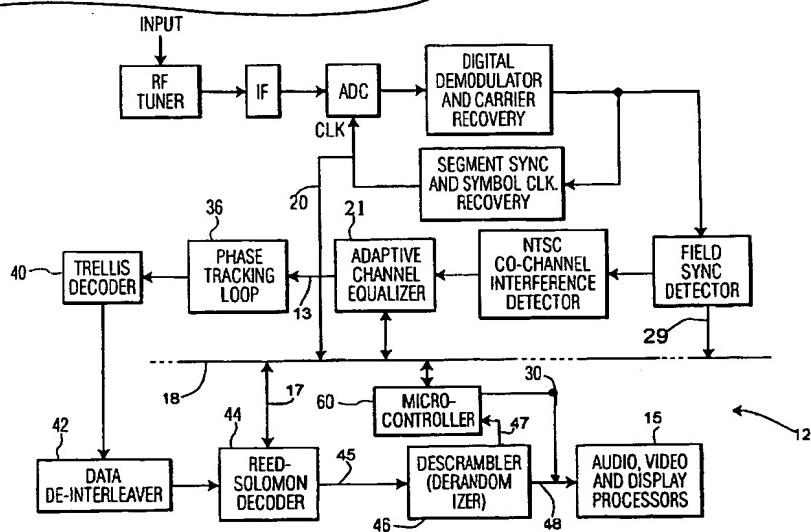
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(54) Title: PACKET ERROR SIGNAL GENERATOR



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(57) Abstract: A software packet error system to for use with a High Definition Television (HDTV) receiver (12). A data packet error signal (17) is transferred from a forward error correcting Reed-Solomon decoder (44) to a transport processor (60). In response to a segment sync signal (20), the transport processor generates an error signal (31) which appears on a programmable output pin (30). The software packet error signal (31) is synchronized with the outgoing data packet signal (32) such that each data packet (35) is bracketed or framed by its associated packet error signal (33). Precession of the start of the data packets forwarded on the transport bus (48) relative to the start of the data packets appearing at the output (45) of the decoder (44) occurs as a result of a training packet generated for every 312 data packets. The precession is reset at the beginning of every field and is predictable across the duration of a field with sufficient accuracy to make the software packet error mechanism feasible.